

April 11, 1983

LB 158

SENATOR BARRETT: Absolutely. Yes, I misunderstood your question. There is a one week waiting period, sir.

SPEAKER NICHOL: And now the retirement benefit is now 45 percent instead of two-thirds of your retirement.... of your weekly wage. Is that correct?

SENATOR BARRETT: It depends on the nature of the injury. Essentially 66 2/3 percent, depending on whether it is permanent, partial, total, and so forth.

SPEAKER NICHOL: On permanent disability where you are totally disabled permanently, is it 45 or 66 2/3?

SENATOR BARRETT: Sixty-six and two-thirds percent of your weekly wage.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is the way it has always been then.

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: When does the 45 percent come into play?

SENATOR BARRETT: I am not aware of any 45 percent, Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: It's still 66 2/3. Okay, just for clarification. Thank you.

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: There are no other lights on. Senator Barrett, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a reminder again that my amendment is a very fair and equitable increase and compromise. Another reminder that as of January 1st of 1983, this year, workmen's compensation rates did increase on an average of 15 percent across the State of Nebraska. The benefit increase to employers under my amendment will be about 11 percent and the increase in workmen's compensation rates as a result of the increase to \$200 will result in another rate increase of perhaps 2.7 percent to employers. I suggest to you that that is enough, that Nebraska's economy is still in a very fragile condition and I would urge you to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: That was Senator Barrett's closing on his amendment. We will move now to a vote on the amendment.